The Art of Speech-Arabic Idioms Chapter

Arabic-English dictionary for idioms, proverbs, politeness expressions, religious and Islamic expressions, slang and comparative spoken-written Arabic vocabulary.

الكنايات العربية

The Arabic Idioms

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Index

Introduction

The introduction is given in questions and answers style. They include:

- **What is the idiom?**
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- What is an idiom?

An idiom is an artistic expression of the language. Usually, the individual meanings of its components is different from its literal meaning. By contrast, ordinary language is logical or even mathematical (he studied for five years, درس لمدة خمس سنوات). Idiomatic expressions are colorful, dramatic, lively, closer to the way people really feel, and closer to the local culture.

- How the idioms were collected? (pearl diving)

Unlike Arabic proverbs, where there is an existing public interest, such as books, dictionaries and lexicons, there were not ready-made sources available for collecting idioms. Therefore, it took several years to collect thousands of idioms mainly from two sources. First, live sources such as TV, radios programs and movies and directly from daily interaction. Secondly, written sources, such as newspapers, magazines, novels and books.

Why were only the commons idioms chosen? (unusual in Arabic!)

Naturally, the more common the expression is in Syria and the Arab world, the more useful it is, particularly to a non-native reader. In contrast, the proverbs listed in lexicons, radio, TV newspapers and magazines include a considerable number of archaic proverbs, because these are commonly presented for educational purposes to Arabic native speakers who are already familiar with common and local proverbs. To simplify the task of the non-native learner of Arabic, only about sixteen hundred idioms were chosen (from several thousands). More idioms may be added in future editions.

- How the idioms were arranged and classified?

Alphabetical order was chosen. As for the idioms that have more than one common form, they were listed under different letters. The first word of the idiom normally determines in what section the expression is located. Idiomatic expressions are thus looked up the same as any word is looked up in a normal Arabic – English dictionary. The same conventions apply. (The verb has to be in past tense singular, the noun is extracted from any additions such as a preposition or a definite article etc.) .

- Why were both spoken and written put together? (a first in Arabic!)

Since the majority of idioms are used interchangeably between both speaking and writing, it makes sense to place them in the same section. However, to clarify, each type is marked as <u>written only</u>, <u>spoken only</u>, <u>literary</u> etc. Generally, spoken Arabic uses idioms more often than written, and therefore, sixty to seventy percent of the idioms are more commonly associated with the spoken language. At the same time, within written Arabic itself, there are noticeable differences in usage: news commentary and analysis, novels and society, arts and sports reports tend to use more spoken idioms than news or scientific reports and religious writing. In short, the more serious, theoretical, abstract and formal the writing is, the more formal the written language becomes.

- How are the idioms laid out?

First and in the right (Arabic) column, there is the idiom in Arabic script, sometimes with its synonyms, if any, and alternative or similar forms. In the middle is the literal word-for-word

translation in English. Finally, to the left is found the explanation in terms of the general meaning, the best situation when the idiom is used, historical and cultural background interpretation and, if it exists, the English equivalent idiom.

- Kinds of synonyms

Synonymous expression are meant to give the same or nearly the same meaning. In some cases, the synonym is easier to understand, and in other cases, it is more common. Sometimes, the same words can be used in a different order e.g. باله مشغول- مشغول باله or the same words are used in a slightly different form (e.g. verb instead of adjective) انشغل بالي or merely a different preposition e.g. بالسراء والضراء- في السراء والضراء.

- What is the alternative-similar form?

Often, the same or similar expression is used in different parts of the Arab world. The differences range from accent, an alternate or added letter (ق، ذ، ج، ث، ك), or use with an alternate preposition. This is due to the cultural, ethnic, environmental and dialectical complexities of the region. In fact, a relatively minor variation in accent or spelling can make the expression look very different to the learner. For example بدك الحق ولا ابن عمه Syrian, عايز الحق ولا ابن عمه Egyptian and تريد الحق ولا ابن عمه Bedouin.

- Why the literal translation?

The advantages of literal translation are numerous. First, it increases vocabulary by allowing a learner to make a direct word for word translation and comparison. Second, it highlights the contrast between the direct (original) meaning of the expression and the indirect (idiomatic) sense. Third, it opens doors to the moral values and way of thinking of native-speakers. It helps to underline cultural factors: what the people consider persuasive, funny or sacred.

Caution: In some cases, a word for word rendering of the Arabic into English is impossible, usually because the words simply do not exist in English.

- Several kinds of idioms

There are regular idioms and there are special idioms in terms of structure or meaning. Those of special structure are the dialogue expressions, the narrative expressions and the rhetorical questions.

Dialogue expressions

Very common in Arabic, these typically require a formulaic response to a question, for example.

Two roles are required, e.g. بدك الحق ولا ابن عمه؟ The listener should reply saying الحق or طبعاً الحق.

Narrative expressions

The narrative expression normally consists of two to four sentences that make a very short story which makes a point, e.g. بقول تور بيقول احلبه (I tell him it's a bull, he says milk him!
This means he does not understand what I mean).

Rhetorical questions

The rhetorical question is a question form but requires no answer.

EXAMPLE

Offensive expressions

As in English and other languages, there are many expressions that are very useful and colorful but which cannot be employed in polite company. In this book, a more acceptable, cleaned-up version is offered in its place. The fact that a more salacious version is available is duly noted.

- How to use this book

First, it is recommended to read the book thoroughly and carefully, so one gets a good understanding of what Arabic idioms are like. It also helps to know how the idioms are listed and how to find them or return to them easily. Idioms are useful for passive understanding as well as active usage.

Symbols and abbreviations:

The symbol	Explanation	Notes
" "	Quotation mark used for direct meaning or literal translation	
=	synonym and alternative-similar form	
Wr.	Written-classical Arabic	
*	Antonym-opposite	
<<	dialogue expression	
Slang	Slang expression	
@	body sign language	
>>	Narrative expression	
Sp.	Spoken Arabic	

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The ART OF SPEECH

IDIOMS CHAPTER

BY HUSSEIN MAXOS

حرف الألف

Statistics Idioms: 174 Words:3314 Pages:10 **Total number of idioms: 1579**

In a badly frustrating situation, you perhaps wish to disappear from existence!	• (إنشاء الله) تنشق الأرض وتبلعني
A tough man, a real man.	• (زلمة) بياكل راس الحية
"TO BE WAITING WITH EMPTY PATIENCE" To be waiting impatiently or nervously for someone or something. "**BE WAITING ON NEEDLES AND PINS**"	• (عم) استنى بفارغ الصبر
When you have only two unpleasant choices.	• (قدامك حلين) أحلاهن/أحلاهما مر
"Like the deaf in the wedding", means having no idea about what is going on.	• (متل) الأطرش بالزفة
"From hand to hand" too many people use it.	• (من) ايد لأيد
"THE ONE WHO WARNS IS EXCUSED" A threatening or alarming expression like saying "I am warning you, you will bear the consequences.	• (وقد) اعذر من انذر. أنا بحذرك، وقد أعذر من أنذر.
"FARTHER THAN THE STARS IN THE SKY" Used to describe something that is absolutely impossible.	• ابعد من نجوم السما = نجوم السما أقرب
"SON OF THE GOOD (PEOPLE)" Highborn, A son of good, respectable people" أجاويد is an uncommon plural of جيد.	• ابن أجاويد.
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF (GOOD) ORIGIN" Literally highborn, of noble birth and used when you praise a faithful, honest friend.	• ابن أصل= بنت أصل والله أنت ابن أصل، أبدا ما كذبت وكنت دائما وفي.
"SON OF HIS MOTHER"	• ابن أمه.

A good man is the one born and raised up by a good mother. Used normally when you praise someone's bravery.	
"SON OF ADAM (A HUMAN BEING)" (same as "son of (good) origin") above Highborn, respectable person from a good family.	● ابن أوادم= ابن أجاويد
"SON OF (THE) COUNTRY/TOWN" In Arabic it is very nice to say that someone is loyal to his traditions and origin. A generous man.	● ابن بلد. محمود ابن بلد وأكيد رح يعزمك على العشا والنوم عنده.
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF PRISONS" Used to warn a friend when he deals with someone who was in prison. Also used as an insult.	● ابن حبوس. لا تثق فيه بسرعة، لا تنسى انه ابن حبوس !
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF WRONGDOING" A bastard.	● ابن حرام.
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF LINEAGE AND KINSHIP" High bred or of noble birth. Someone who comes from superior stock.	● ابن حسب و نسب.
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF GOVERNMENT" A policeman or a high ranking official in a state organization whom you have to avoid being in trouble with.	● ابن حكومة. هذا ابن حكومة ما رح تقدر تغلبه.
"SON OF ITS (HIS) HOUR" When used to describe an event, it means it happened suddenly. When used to describe someone, it means the person is strange and unpredictable.	● ابن ساعته.
"SON OF CRAFT" A skillful craftsman, artisan or any handicraft professional.	● ابن صنعة. أبو عبد الله نجار من أربعين سنة، هو فعلاً ابن صنعة.
	● ابن عالم و ناس = ابن أصل، ابن حلال.
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF POWER (HIGH STANDING)" A class expression which describes someone who is (or was) from a	● ابن عز. صحيح ابن عز، بس متواضع كمان

powerful, wealthy family who is generous and helpful.	
“SON OF YESTERDAY” “Brand-new, fresh, inexperienced” Someone whose ability or competence to handle a certain situation you do not trust. Used also by the older generation to describe a younger, inexperienced person. Eng: “**BORN YESTERDAY**”	• ابن مبارح. أنا ماني مستغرب فشله، هادا ابن مبارح.
“SON (DAUGHTER) OF SCHOOLS” Used when an educated person behaves in a strange or disappointing manner. Used by common people to confirm that schools do not teach everything and life still the best teacher.	• ابن مدارس= بنت مدارس طبعاً، هاي بنت مدارس ما بتعرف تطبخ وترتب البيت متل أمها.
“COOL MY BREAST (CHEST)” To give relief or comfort or bring hoped-for good news. Formal.	• أثلج صدري. أخبارك السارة هذه أثلجت صدري.
"IT CAME TO MY MIND" To feel like (drinking, eating something or going somewhere..) You want to do it but no decision has been made yet.	• أجا على بالي
"YOUR CHANCE HAS COME" This is your fate, luck or opportunity.	• أجا نصيبك
(It, he...) Just came on time.	• أجا وقته ،أجا بوقته
“LEG OF (THE) CHAIR” A front man or someone who has less importance or power than his position would suggest. An empty suit.	• اجر كرسي= رجل كرسي
“You make hesitant steps” when you are hesitant or confused concerning what to say or what to do in your way heading for some people or a place.	• اجر لورا و اجر لقدام بصراحة، كنت متردد، ماشي إجر لورا واجر لقدام
“MY LEG AND YOUR LEG IN (ARE BOTH RECEIVING) BASTINADO”. “We both share the responsibility (for this mistake or the trouble) so don’t think you can escape”. Bastinado is a traditional (and painful) punishment which involves being beaten on the soles of the feet.	• اجري و اجرك بالفلقة. لا تهددني ! اجري و اجرك بالفلقة

When you complain that there are too many people coming to the place, also a crowded place. (Quranic expression)	• آجوج و مأجوج لاتروحي على المعرض اليوم، الناس هنيك آجوج وماجوج.
"YOU CAME AND GOD BROUGHT YOU" You just came at the right time, just when you were needed. It's a cheerful expression used to describe a situation when you are in trouble and a friend who can help you appears unexpectedly.	• اجيت والله جابك. أهلاً وسهلاً، جيت والله جابك، تعال ساعدنا.
"AAH, (FROM) YOU!" "Oh god! What have you done?" oh, you again. A joking complaint.	• آخ منك
"TAKE MIND (ATTENTION)" To take care, be careful or pay attention. EG "TURN MIND (ATTENTION" To take care, be careful or pay attention. SYR	• أخد باله= دير بالك
"TAKE BY THE HAND" To give a hand, ensure support or help.	• أخد بيده.
"TAKE HIS (HER) SOUL", To kill, take someone's life.	• أخد روحه.
"TAKE ONE'S MIND" To be obsessed by a hobby or some activity.	• آخد عقله الكمبيوتر آخد عقله، ليل نهار و هو قدامه.
"TAKE ON ONE'S MIND (HEART)" To be or become offended. To have one's feelings hurt.	• أخد على خاطره. كلامك معها فيه نقد واضح لذلك أخدت على خاطرها
"TAKE ON HIM (HER/IT)" To criticize.	• أخد عليه
"TAKE TO (FOR) IT A MEANING" To misinterpret or misunderstand. Usually a hint or word that can have a double or negative meaning.	• أخد لها معنى.
"TAKE A BREATH" To regain energy, take a break or have a chance to recover from a tiring period or stage.	• أخد نفس.

The ART OF SPEECH

IDIOMS CHAPTER

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“GIVE AND TAKE” This means discussion, exchanging views and arguing. It can also mean to borrow and lend or buy and sell. And also to be flexible or sociable in company.	• أخد و عطا. معليش، تديّن منه! هيك الحياة أخد و عطا.
“THE LATEST BUNCH (OF GRAPES)” An endearment expression for the younger child in the Arab family who traditionally receives more attention and care than the rest of his/her older brothers and sisters.	• آخر العنقود. محمد حبيب أمه آخر العنقود
“THE END OF TIME” This shows dissatisfaction, regret or criticism concerning a strange trend, product or behavior with which traditions do not agree.	• آخر زمان. شايف! شباب آخر زمان
“LATEST FAD” (same as “latest cry”) Most recent style or trend.	• آخر صرعة = آخر صيحة
“THE LATEST CRY” Used when you are proud of or impressed by a specific fashion or style and you want to say it is the latest trend.	• آخر صيحة. (هذا ال، هال) الجاكيت آخر صيحة بعالم الأزياء
(LIKE) ADAM A person who has a good reputation.	• آدمي
(IF THE PRECIOUS GOES, EVERTHING IS CHEAPENED" When you justify being careless after losing something dear or precious.	• إذا بيروح الغالي كل شي بيرخص
"WHEN ANGELS COME, DEVILS RUN AWAY" A funny expression used when someone on the way out meets someone else coming in. (mythical origin)	• إذا حضرت الملائكة هربت الشياطين ليش رايحة؟ يعني إذا إجت الملائكة هربت الشياطين؟
'IF IT IS FATED" If it happens, if it ever happens, if gods will or if it is (his, her, its..) fate to.	• إذا صار نصيب
“HIS TONGUE WAS TIED” To be tongue-tied, speechless, stunned.	• ارتبط لسانه

"CHEAPER THAN THE RADISH" It is very cheap or cheaper than you think.	● ارخص من الفجل
"HIS WALL/FENCE IS CONSIDERED LOW" He is an easy mark or a victim. (Historically, thieves preferred houses of easy fences and low walls) Joke or real.	● استوطى حيطه
"IS THE SHEEP COOKED?' When you complain that, someone went to make something to drink or to eat and he is slow or late.	● استوى هالخروف= ما استوى الخاروف
- مناسباتية لطف	● اسم الله حولك و حواليك
"I DESIRED IT FOR YOU" Eng: "I wish you had been there" Said when you enjoyed something and wanted another person to share it.	● اشتهيت لك ياها
"WE WISH YOU WERE HERE".	● أشتهيناك تكون معنا
I (HOPE TO) SEE YOUR FACE WELL" مناسباتي-لطف	● أشوف وجهك بخير
'THE FINGERS OF YOUR HAND ARE NOT THE SAME" An expression used to say that people from the same family, tribe, town or country are not the same, so you should not generalize.	● أصابع الأيد مو متل بعضهن
"HE (SHE) TURNED YELLOW AND GREEN" When someone's color changes, he/she is deeply moved, shocked or scared.	● اصفرّ واخضرّ.
"(YOUR) NERVES ARE COLD" A person with a "cold nerves" is a cold person. This can be both praise and insult.	● **أعصابك باردة.** واجه الموقف رغم خطورته بأعصاب باردة.
"HE CALLS THE ONE-EYED MAN ONE-EYED" A straight-speaking person who gives his honest opinion without regard to tact. **"HE CALLS A SPADE A SPADE"**	● اعور اعور بعينه= بيقول للأعور أعور بعينكز

“PULL OUT THE TOOTH AND RELAX (FROM) IT.” “To pull out the (bad) tooth and relax” means to take off your pain (the source of trouble) thoroughly and immediately. **“GET IT OVER WITH**”	● اقلع الضرس وارتاح منه
"MORE THE CONCERN ON THE HEART" "Don't worry; that's the least of your worries. You can't worry about everything.	● **اكتر من الهم على القلب**
"HE ATE HIS FINGERS OUT OR REGRET" "He was deeply sorry.	● آكل اصابعه ندامة = عضّ أصابعه ندامة
"HE ATE HIS FINGERS AFTER IT" When you lick your fingers after a meal, it shows it was very delicious and tasty.	● أكل اصابعه وراها طبخت لنا أمها أكلة، أكلنا أصابعنا وراها.
"HE ATE THE MONEY" When you deny your debt or refuse to pay back or give back. "**HE STIFFED US**"	● أكل المصاري
"HE ATE SWEETS IN HIS MIND" To be tempted by someone's persuasiveness.	● أكل بعقله حلاوة. لا تحاولي تاكلي بعقلي حلاوة! ما رح وافق.
"HE ATE THE SHAFT" **The "khazouk" was an Ottoman way of executing a man by making him sit on a sharp stake (the shaft). Said when you are stuck in a bad situation, get cheated or suffer a big loss.** (informal) **"HE GOT SCREWED"**	● أكل خازوق
"HE ATE MY HEAD" "HE ATE MY FACE" He was overly insistent.	● أكل راسي = أكل وجهي
"HE ATE A BEATING" To be beaten up or physically hurt. "HE TOOK A BEATING"	● أكل قتلة!
"HE ATE WORRY" To be worried or deeply concerned.	● أكل هم
"HE ATE AIR" "HE ATE THE SHAFT"	● أكل هوا = أكل خازوق

Said when one takes a loss or suffers a humiliation.	
(He is) terribly insisting person. Also when you receive criticism or blame from people.	• أكل وجهي
"HE ATE IT WITH HIS EYES" If someone or something fascinates you, you keep staring at it, and then people would notice and use this expression to wake you up. "HE COULDN'T TAKE HIS EYES OFF IT (HER)."	• أكلها بعينه.
“ADMITTING A SIN IS A VIRTUE” مثل	• الاعتراف بالذنب فضيلة
“DAMASCUS IS THE MOTHER OF THE WORLD” “Damascus is the best place in the world” if you are in Damascus or Syria you might hear this. Egyptians have their own expression though.”مصر أم الدنيا“.	• الشام أم الدنيا. طبعاً بتلاقي كل شي بالشام، الشام أم الدنيا.
“FOR YOU OR FOR THE WOLF?” A warmly provocative expression used when one asks a friend to do you a favor, something you really need, If this friend responds positively, he should answer: . خسا الديب “WOE TO THE WOLF” This shows they are willing to help.	• اللك ولا للديب..>> محمود! اللك ولاّ للديب - خسا الديب لازمني خمس مية ليرة..
"THE ONE WHO LISTENS TO YOU BELIEVES YOU. When someone mentions a matter in a way you don’t like, you try to deny it, its accuracy or to show false.	• اللي بيسمعك بيصدقك= أسمع كلامك أصدقك، أشوف أمورك أستغرب/أستعجب
WHAT IS GONE S DEAD” The past is the past, Said it when you change your mind concerning a previous agreement or when a new set of rules have been put into effect.	• اللي فات مات

"IT HAS ITS NOISE AND RINGING" Attractive, popular or important (someone or something).	● اله طنة ورنة
"HE HAS A WORD" Used to describe someone who is listened to and taken seriously. A powerful person with good connections.	● اله كلمة = ايده طايلة
"HE HAS A POINT (VIEW). The experienced man has good perspectives, go and ask him when you need to.	● اله نظرة
'TAKE HOLD OF YOUR NERVES" Cool down, calm down or take it easy. "**GET A GRIP**"	● امسك أعصابك
"HOPE OF THE DEVIL IN HEAVEN" **It is impossible, no way! Never think about it, it will never happen, or you will never get it.** **"NOT A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL"**	● أمل إبليس بالجنة.
"THE TIME HAS COME" It is time to. It is the best time to.	● **آن الأوان** آن الأوان نوسّع شركتنا، الظروف مناسبة.
"IF SHE SPLIT HERSELF" Said to express the worst case scenario that could happen. It can't be any worse than this. It can't go beyond this limit.	● إن شقت حالها رح ضلّ هنيك تمانية ايام وان شقت عشرة ايام.
"HIS TONGUE (WAS) WORN OUT" "I (he) told you a hundred times"	● انبرى لسانه
"YOU ARE BIGGER THAN THIS" You are saying this just because you are mad, you will not do it. Used when your friend is blaming you for saying, planning or doing anything bad.	● أنت اكبر من هيك
"HIS THINKING WAS PARALYSED" To become unable to think because of being shocked, perplexed or exhausted. "HE FROZE. HE CHOKED"	● انشل تفكيره
"HE (SHE) WAS BEATEN ON HIS (HER) EYE" Used to ask someone "How could you	● انضرب على عينه.

have possibly done this? An offensive expression used when you strongly blame someone.	
"IT WAS BLINDED ON MY HEART" “To be blind-hearted”, means to be unaware of.	• انعمى على قلبي
"MY HEART STOPPED" You use it when you are scared or panic-stricken. "MY HEART FROZE"	• انقطع قلبي
“THE (QURANIC) VERSE WAS TURNED AROUND” “The situation is now reversed” When two persons or two groups exchange their positions in a stage of some event.	• انقلبت الآية.
"HIS WISH (EXPECTATION) WAS BROKEN" To be emotionally hurt, offended or very disappointed.	• انكسر خاطره
"MY NERVES WERE DESTROYED" To be exhausted after nervous or difficult situation.	• انهدت أعصابي= تلفت/هلكت أعصابي
“PEOPLE (FAMILY) (OWNERS) OF THE HOUSE” Said to welcome someone to the house. A typically hospitable expression used for saying: you are not a stranger!	• أهل البيت. أنت من أهل البيت، ممكن تزورنا بأي وقت.
“FIRST WITH THE FIRST” One by one, piece by piece or gradually.	• أول بأول
"A HAND BEHIND AND A HAND IN FRONT" “Empty handed” how disappointing when somebody doesn’t bring with him what you expected him to!	• أيد من ورا و أيد من قدام عيب الواحد يزور أهله وهو رايح ايد من ورا وايد من قدام بعد غياب طويل.
“ONE HAND DOES NOT CLAP” One hand can not do much. Unity is needed for stronger action.	• أيد وحدها ما بتصفق
"YOUR HAND AND WHAT IT CAN REACH" “Do whatever you can, you will not be able to hurt me”	• أيدك وما تطول = بلّط البحر

The ART OF SPEECH

IDIOMS CHAPTER

BY HUSSEIN MAXOS

"HIS HEAND IS LIGHT" A skilled man. A thief.	• ايده خفيفة
“HIS (HER) HAND IS STRETCHED OUT” A person with “an extended hand” is powerful person, someone with influence and connections.	• أيده طايلة
(HIS (HER) HAND {ARM) IS LONG Used to describe a thief or crook.	• ايده طويلة
“HIS HAND IS EMPTY” “A HAND IN FRONT AND A HAND BEHIND” ???? “CAME EMPTY HANDED”	• أيده فاضبة = أيد من ورا وايد من قدام
“HIS HAND IS (TIGHTLY CLOSED” Closefisted. a polite way for saying stingy. Not hospitable and not generous.	• أيده ماسكة
“HIS HAND IS STAINED WITH BLOOD” Used to describe a murderer or guilty person.	• أيده ملطخة بالدم.
“MY HAND IN YOUR BELT” I beg you, I appeal to you, please.	• أيدي بزنارك
“HAND WITH HAND"” together. "HAND IN HAND"	• أيدي و أيدك
“IT TAKES THE MIND!” “IT MAKES CRAZY” Astonishing, amazing or wonderful.	• بياخد العقل= بيجنن
“HE (SHE) BEATS IN (ON) THE RIGHT AND IT COMES (FROM) THE LEFT” Used to describe an unlucky person who's trying hopelessly and you want to cheer them up by saying: hey! Life’s opportunities can be very elusive.	• بيضربها شمال بتجي يمين. مسكين أحمد ما هو محظوظ، بيضربها شمال بتجي يمين
“TAKE FACE” To be familiar or overly familiar with. Used to describe social relations where one allows himself the liberty of acting informally. Has a negative sense of someone overstepping social boundaries.	• أخد وجه. بعد تالت زيارة أخد وجه وصار يحكي ويمزح معنا.

"HIS HAND AND THE BEATING" Used to describe a violent and harsh person who likes to fight. Can be used seriously or jokingly.	• أيده و الضرب
"SON (DAUGHTER) OF RIGHTEOUSNESS" A good, helpful, generous person.	• ابن حلال.

"FATHER FROM GRANDFATHER" Inherited or deeply rooted in the family. "IN THE BLOOD"	• أباً عن جد
"KEEP REASSURING US" Then keep us informed. Used when someone is leaving and you want him to stay in touch.	• ابقى طمّنّا
"HEAVIER THAN THE WORRY ON THE HEART" Boring or annoying.	• أتقل من الهمّ على القلب
"IT CAME ON HIS (MY) MIND" To occur, comes to one’s mind or remember. To feel like or fancy something. "IT OCCURRED TO ME"	• **اجا على باله = جاي على بالي**
“WE WERE CONFUSED O BOLD ONE WHERE TO COMB YOU". You are bold”, means it is hard to understand you or make you happy.	• احترنا يا أقرع منين نمشطك
"IT IS BEST FOR YOU" It is better for you (warning or advice)	• أحسن لك
"IT IS BEST TO"	• أحسن ما = أحسن لك
"THE BOWMEN AND THE NOBLES GOT MIXED UP" “When fighters (archers or bowmen) mix and leave their positions in the battle” it is a total mess.	• **اختلط الحابل بالنابل**
"YOU EMBARRASSED MY MODESTY" To be embarrassed because some one’s praise.	• أخجلت تواضعي
"HE TOOK HIS GLORY" To enjoy a good time.	• أخذ مجده
"AN EAR OF CLAY AND AN EAR OF DOUGH" To be indifferent, not listen or care.	• ادن (اذن/دان) من طين وادن من عجين
"IF THE FOOD IS NOT HIS, HIS STOMACH IS NOT HIS?" “How can he/you eat like this” used to criticize someone when eating too much,	• إذا الأكل مو اله بطنه مواله

too fast or without manners.	
"IF THE JUDGE IS SATISFIED" “Keep away please” used to push aside an intruder, or when you don’t want to interfere or get involved.	• **إذا القاضي راضي!**
إذا القاضي راضي	• اذا انا راضي وهو راضي مالنا ومال القاضي
"IF OUR COOK IS (NAMED) JAEES, WE'LL GET A LOT OF SOUP" An expression used to criticize the one who prepares food in a poor way. Said in jest.	• إذا طباخنا جعيص شبعنا مرقة
"IF I TELL HER TO DIES, SHE DIES; IF I TELL HER TO LIVE, SHE LIVES" This expression indicates total faith and obedience to someone. e.g.My young son did everything I wanted him to do without arguing when he was young.	• إذا قلت لها موتي بتموت، عيشي بتعيش
" IF I DID NOT MAKE YOU REGRET" You will regret it. A threat. **"I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS"**	• إذا ما خليتك تندم (ما بكون)
“KEEP THE DONKEY WHERE HIS OWNER WANTS". Don't bother giving your advice if it is not appreciated.	• اربط الحمار مطرح ما بده صاحبه
"BE MERCIFUL WITH AN HONORABLE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN HUMBLED" Please help me. I am not a beggar.	• ارحموا عزيز قومٍ ذُل
"GOD'S LAND IS VAST" The world is so big and I can go anywhere. Used when one can not live or stay in a certain place anymore, and he is hopeful to find another place. E.G a divorced woman or A fired worker.	• **أرض الله واسعة**
"THEY RECEIVED HIM WITH A HUG" To be received warmly.	• استقبله بالأحضان
"THEY RECEIVED HIM WITH A HERO'S WELCOME" To be received like a hero.	• استقبلوه استقبال الأبطال

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"LISTEN TO THIS!" “listen to this” sarcastic expression used to show disapproval and surprise.	• اسمعوا على هالسمعة!
"SHAPES AND COLORS" Many kinds. A variety of.	• أشكال ألوان
"HE HIT (HIS MIND) FULLY" To think deeply. Wr.	• أطرق ملياً
“I TAUGHT HOM HOW TO SHOOT, BUT AFTER HE LEARNED, HE SHOT ME” used when you help some until he’s capable, then he turns against you. This expression encourages loyalty.	• اعلمه الرماية كل يومٍ فلم اشتدَّ ساعدهُ رماني
"RIDE THE BIGGEST HORSES YOU HAVE" A threat from an opponent t\that you don’t fear. "DO YOUR WORST"	• أعلى ما بخيلك اركبه= بلّط البحر
"HIS STAR FADED" Said when one’s fame or reputation fades away. To not longer be popular. Wr.	• **أفل نجمه * سطع نجمه**
“CUT THE CAT'S HEAD ON THE WEDDING NIGHT", means you should prove your manhood from the beginning”. Used when diuscussing a problem between a man and his wife. Used to criticize somneon for being too soft or lenient. Real or sarcastic.	• اقطع راس القط من أول ليلة
"THE LEAST ONE OF THEM" “The weakest one” means a group that one has to take seriously. (They are so strong that even the weakest of them is to be feared.	• أقل واحد فيهن
"CROWN OF GARLAND Symbol of glory. The Garland (plant) crown used in medeaval time to celebrate a hero often returning from victorious war.	• أكاليل الغار= مكلل بالغار
"HE ATE THE GREEN AND THE DRY" To wipe out totally. To be greedy and	• أكل الأخضر واليابس

merciless.	

"HE ATE (TOOK) A HIT" "To take or receive a hit (physical metaphorical).	• أكل ضربة
"HE ATE THE CONCERN" To be worried or deeply concerned.	• أكل هم
"HE ATE AIR" To be screwed up, or suffer big loss or failure. It is the soft version of an expression that uses a bad word.	• أكل هوا
"IT ATE TIME" To take or consume time.	• أكل وقت
"HE ATE MY FLSEH AND THREW AWAY MY BONES" This expression is used when somebody is abandoned or discharged after many years of service or being together.	• أكلني لحم ورماني عظم
"HE ATE IT (AIR)"	• أكلها = أكل هوا
"HE GAVE A WORD" To give a speech.	• ألقى كلمة
"THE COMMANDER AND THE FORBIDDER" The only who can decide (in this matter).	• الآمر الناهي
"YOU SEW AND WE'LL WEAR IT" I'll do whatever you want. You decide.	• انت فصل ونحنا منلبس
"MY SOUL WAS BLOCKED" Used when you lose appetite after hearing bad news or when a problem arises.	• انسدت نفسي
"MY MIND WAS OCCUPIED" "MY MIND WAS BUSY" To be worried or deeply concerned.	• **انشغل بالي = بالي مشغول**
"HE SAT IN THE SHADOW OF THE FLAG" To join a group, philosophy or a certain movement. Wr.	• انضوى تحت لواء
"IT WAS OPENED ON ME" To receive unexpectedly strong reaction, usually followed by an argument. "THEY LET ME HAVE IT"	• انفتح علي
"THE ROADS WERE CUT" To be stranded. Wr.	• انقطعت به السبل

"HIS MAGIC HAS TURNED AGAINST HIM", His evil is being used against him. **"HE DUG HIS OWN GRAVE"**	• انقلب السحر على الساحر
"HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED" It will be finished, dead, or ruined soon.	• **أيامه معدودة**
"MY HAND ON YOUR HEAD" يمين Used when someone begs someone to tell him the truth.	• ايدي على راسك
"MY HAND IS ON MY HEART" When "you put your hand on your heart" it means you are confused, anxious and insecure, specially when waiting for or doing something without a clue about the results.	• ايدي على قلبي

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"MY HAND AND MY LEG" Something that is "my hand and my leg" is what I cannot do without, such as skilful assistant or good equipment. **"MY RIGHT HAND"**	• ايدي و رجلي (شي)
"NO AHEM OR PERMISSION" **"Without permission". احم is originally used when a visitor wants to enter a house or another part of the house in case the family is doing something or women want to put their Hijab in front of a stranger. دستور and يالله are used for the same situation.**	• لا احم ولا دستور
"GOD (HOPEFULLY) DID NOT BRING HIGH PRICES" You are as unwelcome as raising the prices. A joke and funny expression when a friend or someone comes.	• الله لا (كان) جاب الغلا
اسلامي	• الله يخلق الانسان/عبده ورزقه معه
"MAY GOD LET US HEAR GOOD NEWS" "What news!-did you really do this?" used when some embarrassing news or secrets are revealed.	• الله يسمّعنا الأخبار الطيبة
"MAY GOD BREAK YOUR HANDS" "It is terrible what you have done" used to criticize or blame some one for awkward or stupid way of doing some thing.	• الله يكسر ايديك
"MAY GOD MAKE SAEED HAPPY WITH SAEEDA" Those two (friends, relatives or husband and wife) are good or suitable to each other. Used when wishing a couple a good luck or in sarcasm.	• الله يهني سعيد بسعيدة
"MAY GOD GIVE MY SOUL PATIENCE" = "I NEED THE PATIENCE OF JOB" A complaint used when you are about to be fed up.	• اللهم طولك يا روح = يا صبر أيوب

"THE BEGINNING IS LIGHT AND THE END IS LIGHT" مثل What begins well will end well. If you are clear and honest, things will work out.	• اللي أوله نور آخره نور
"HE HAS TWO THIRDS OF HIS MIND" He is obviously interested or willing. He is leaning towards accepting.	• اله تلتين الخاطر
"HE HAS AN EYE" “How dare he?” "HE'S GOT GUTS"	• اله عين!
"HE CASTS HIS SHADOW ON" To influence. To cast a shadow over something. Translated expression often used in the media.	• يلقي بظلاله على

حرف الباء

Statistics Idioms: 136 Words: 2049 Pages: 7

"WHY IS YOUR ONION BURNED?" A rhetorical question to an impatient person. "HOLD YOUR HORSES!" "KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON!"	• (ليش) بصلتك محروقة
"(A THING THAT) TAKES THE MIND" Amazing, marvelous or astonishing.	• (شي) بياخد العقل
“A PIECE OF MY MIND FLEW (LEFT)” to be or become very angry or mad.	• (طار) برج عقلي
'IT DOESN’T NEED TWO TO TALK ABOUT IT" “The matter is so natural that it doesn’t need two people to argue about it” Of course. It's obvious.	• (ما) بدها تنين يحكو فيها
"THERE ISN'T (MUCH TIME) UNTIL HE COMES" He can come any minute. He's on his way.	• (ما) بقى إلا يجي

"(FROM THE) DOOR (CHAPTER) OF POLITNESS" For the sake of (compliment). Being polite.	• (من) باب المجاملة
"THE DOOR (IS BIG ENOUGH) FOR A CAMEL. Used to show someone that if he does not respect the rules he is not welcome. They door swings both ways. Leave if you don't like it.	• الباب بيفوت جمل